

# Global Immigration alert

October 2024

## European Union

### New visa-free policy for Serbian nationals entering the Schengen Area

#### Executive summary

Effective 13 October 2024, Serbian nationals who hold passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate (Northern Kosovo) or the Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Belgrade (Serbia) may enter the Schengen Area without a visa.

#### Background

Since December 2009, holders of Serbian biometric passports have been able to enter the Schengen Area (which comprises all EU member states except Ireland and Cyprus) without a visa. However, holders of Serbian passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate or the Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were not eligible for the visa exemption. On 16 November 2023, the European Commission introduced a proposal to eliminate the visa requirement for these individuals by revising Regulation (EU) 2018/1806.

#### Key developments

In late July 2024, the European Council adopted a [decision](#) to suspend the visa requirement for holders of passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate (Northern Kosovo) or the Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Belgrade (Serbia) who seek to enter the Schengen Area.

The recent implementation of this decision aims to harmonize the visa policy across the [Western Balkan region](#) by extending the visa-free regime to all citizens of the countries in this region who seek to enter the Schengen Area.

#### Impact on employers

This change is expected to benefit employers that seek to send impacted individuals to the Schengen Area for business purposes by simplifying entry requirements.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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